

Manager Darvill still experimenting—but WANDERERS' DEFENSIVE RECORD IS CAUSE FOR CONCERN!

Wealdstone 2, Wycombe Wanderers 0

TWO stupid defensive mistakes by Wycombe Wanderers gave Wealdstone two scoring opportunities which they gratefully accepted at Lower Mead on Saturday.

Manager-coach Barry Darvill, still experimenting with his side, trying to find the right blend, replaced Peter Eyres with Ian Rundle at left back from the side that triumphed at Ilford. But the main problems to be sorted out are defensive ones, for Wycombe have conceded 22 goals in 13 matches. Only five other clubs in the league have conceded more, including Maidstone's 53.

Within the opening five minutes John Beck saved Wycombe from being a goal down. A goal-kick by Maskell who appeared to be suffering from leg trouble from the start, went straight to Swain, but fortunately the alert Beck beat two players before clearing the ball, saving a certain goal.

Wycombe adopted the policy of shooting on sight, and, with Baker and Gale supplying the power from wing-half, the Wanderers' front line started to move with menace.

RAKING PASSES

A high swirling wind necessitated the ball to be played along the ground and of the two sides Wycombe employed this tactic to its full use, punching long raking passes deep into the home penalty area.

However after a couple of near misses they found themselves one down after 30 minutes—a goal which should have been prevented.

Rundle conceded an indirect free-kick on the edge of the area.

Wycombe pulled six men back to form a defensive 'wall', with Maskell guarding the left hand side of the net. Wealdstone's Swain tapped the ball across for Lindsay to drive a spectacular goal into the top left corner, breaching the Wycombe wall.

The Wanderers tried to hit back straight from the restart and Horseman appealed for 'handball' as he went to challenge for a Worley cross, but the referee waved play on, much to the annoyance of the Wycombe section of the crowd. Still they applied the pressure and Baker brought keeper Blythe to his knees from 20 yards.

Len Worley, on the right flank, was creating plenty of space to move in but was misjudging his crosses, and often the wind carried them too far over the heads of his forwards and out of play.

With the wind at their backs in the second half, Wealdstone forced the pace early on. Rundle positioned himself in the right spot to clear off the line from McCormack with Maskell beaten.

After 62 minutes, Wycombe fell further behind following a terrible mix-up in their goalmouth. Maskell moved out to try and rob Swain as he went through, but failed, Faulkner could not get the ball away, and Swain's chip was headed home by Bremer.

Although Wycombe fought gallantly to get back into the game, this was really the "killer goal", and Wealdstone seemed to sense it was all over.

But Keith Samuels had other ideas, and as a last note of defiance forced Blythe to a flying save in the final minute.